

Minutes of the Kansas Judicial Branch Blue Ribbon Commission

Wednesday, September 28, 2011

Members present were Constance Alvey, Bob Boaldin, Richard Boeckman, Blaine Carter, Kim Cudney, Donna Elliott, Richard Flax, Joseph Harkins, Karen Hester, Martha Hodgesmith, Jeffrey King, Susan Lynn, Patrick McAnany, Doris Miller, Linda Parks, Reggie Robinson, Gerald Schultz, Sam Sheldon, John Wheeler, Cal Williams, Sam Williams, and Meryl Wilson.

Members absent were Kasha Kelley, Mike Padilla, and John Vratil.

9:00 Meeting Began

Welcome

Commission Chairman Patrick McAnany welcomed the members and previewed the agenda.

Update on the Weighted Caseload Study

Steve Grieb presented a brief overview of the work done on the Weighted Caseload Study. Judicial and Staffing Needs Assessment Committees met to finalize all of the case weights, determined a three way split of districts based on workload, and approved case weights. They also received new 2011 case filing data.

There are trends in judge need, and the situation is not static. The same is true for clerk staff. Need changes year to year, with a slight trend toward a higher need. A 5-year summary to try to plot trends is being developed, as is an estimate regarding future need-when e-filing is implemented. Grieb noted that the staff reports are based on allocated clerk positions, but not on filled clerk positions. There are currently approximately 40 positions that are not filled.

The final report is still under development. Travel time was based on current travel time data.

Update on E-filing System Vendor Negotiations

Kelly O'Brien presented an update on vendor negotiations for the e-filing with Tybera, a company in Utah. Since July, there have been a number of negotiations regarding both the legal language and the deliverables in the contract itself. There is a limited dollar amount available, leaving not much room for negotiation. A statement of work with dollars is expected soon.

A BRC member wondered whether any extra needed costs could be pushed on to the counties. O'Brien stated that some counties might be impacted, but that is not clear at the moment.

Recommendations of the Work Groups

Jeff King, Finance Work Group chairperson, John Wheeler, Process/Technology Work Group chairperson, and Meryl Wilson, Structure Work Group chairperson, presented the

recommendations of the respective work groups. Each of the three chairpersons thanked the work group members for the work that they did in coming up with the recommendations.

Among the topics covered were:

- E-filing and centralized case (CMS) and document (DMS) management systems
- Accessibility of court records and documents, including e-documents
- The official Kansas Reports
- IT hardware used by the courts
- Docket fees
- Collections
- Audio/visual equipment
- Court reporters
- Appellate court mediation
- Translators and interpreters
- Training
- Limited representation services
- Judicial efficiency
- Judicial best practices
- Priority district court scheduling
- Priority appellate review
- Pro bono work of attorneys
- Statutes relating to placement of judges
- District Magistrate and District Court Judges
- Judicial district consolidation and redistricting
- Court rules
- OJA operations
- Specialty courts
- Implementing legislation and rules.

Recommendations were made, reviewed, and discussed in detail by the full BRC. Several were amended, and many were approved.

Further Proceedings

Patrick McAnany addressed further proceedings. He stated that a draft of the approved recommendations will be drawn up and circulated. Work will then begin on a draft report.

Meeting Adjourned.